

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. A fiberoptic system comprising:

a central office; and

5 at least one downstream station connected to said  
central office;

said central office comprising a TX unit, an RX  
unit and a CW laser; and

each said downstream station comprising an RX unit  
and a tunable filter, said tunable filter being placed  
between the downstream station's RX unit and said  
central office.

2. A fiberoptic system according to claim 1  
wherein said tunable filter is configured so that  
during downstream transmission, said tunable filter is  
tuned to the wavelength of the central office's TX unit  
so that the signal transmitted by the central office  
will pass through said tunable filter and be received  
20 by the station's RX unit.

3. A fiberoptic system according to claim 1  
wherein said tunable filter is configured so that

during upstream transmission, the station's tunable filter is selectively tuned to a wavelength different than the wavelength of the central office's CW laser, so that the station's tunable filter will selectively reflect light from the CW laser back to the central office, with said tunable laser being selectively tuned so as to modulate the light being reflected back to the central office, whereby to effectively create an upstream transmission from the downstream station to the central office.

4. A fiberoptic system according to claim 1 wherein said CW laser is a tunable laser, and each said downstream station is assigned a different wavelength within the tuning range of said tunable laser.

5. A fiberoptic system comprising:  
a central office; and  
at least one downstream station connected to said central office;

said central office comprising means for transmitting a light signal, means for receiving a light signal, and a CW laser; and

each said downstream station comprising means for receiving a light signal and a tunable filter, said tunable filter being placed between the downstream station's means for receiving a light signal and said central office.

6. A method for communicating between a central office and a downstream station, said method comprising:

providing, at said central office, a TX unit, an RX unit and a CW laser, and providing, at said downstream station, an RX unit and a tunable filter, said tunable filter being placed between the downstream station's RX unit and said central office;

during downstream transmission, tuning said tunable filter to the wavelength of the central office's TX unit so that a signal transmitted by the central office will pass through said tunable filter and be received by the station's RX unit, and during upstream transmission, selectively tuning the station's tunable filter to a wavelength different than the wavelength of the central office's CW laser, so that the station's tunable filter will selectively reflect

light from the CW laser back to the central office,  
with said tunable laser being selectively tuned so as  
to modulate the light being reflected back to the  
central office, whereby to effectively create an  
upstream transmission from the downstream station to  
the central office.

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